

1. (Once Amended) A data management system comprising:

an electronic storage facility for providing storage for digital assets of a plurality of unrelated asset provider users, at least some of the digital assets stored in the electronic storage facility including [means for storing] first sets of data each having a first bandwidth communication requirement and second sets of data each representative of an associated one of the first sets of data and having a second bandwidth communication requirement less than the first bandwidth communication requirement, the electronic storage facility storing the digital assets of a first one of the asset provider users such that the digital assets of the first asset provider user can only be accessed by authorized users identified by the first asset provider and such that the digital assets of the first asset provider user are transparent to users that are not authorized by the first asset provider user;

means for allowing [a] an authorized user identified by the first asset provider to download a particular second set of data from the storing means to a first location;

means for accepting a work order from [a] the authorized user at the first location wherein the work order identifies a second location as an intended destination of the work order, identifies the particular second set of data, and further includes [further] data developed outside the system;

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job order development means responsive to the accepting means for developing a job order including both (a) the first set of data associated with the particular second set of data and (b) the data developed outside the system; and

means for electronically routing [a] ~~the~~ job order to ~~the~~ [a] second location[]; and

means for downloading the first set of data associated with the second set of data to the second location].

3. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 2 wherein the high resolution digital images are input to the system by the first asset [an image] provider user.

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4. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 3 further comprising image handling means for processing the high resolution digital images input by the [image] first asset provider user, the image handling means being adapted to develop low resolution images of the high resolution digital images received from the [image] first asset provider user and to store both the high resolution digital images and the low resolution images in the [storing means] storage facility in an addressable fashion for future searching.

²⁴25. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 1 wherein the data developed outside the system and included in the work order comprises a page description language file and the first set of data [downloaded by the downloading means] in the job order comprises a bit mapped image.

²⁵26. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

AB means for receiving digital data from [a data] an asset provider user to be stored in the storage [means] facility; and,

means for compressing the digital data received by the receiving means in accordance with a parameter set by the [data] asset provider user.

²⁴27. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim ²⁵26 wherein the digital data received [by] from the [data] asset provider user is used to develop the first and second data sets.

²⁹30. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim ²⁵26 further comprising means for developing an indication of a charge to be assessed the [data] asset provider user for storing the digital data in the storage [means] facility.

~~31~~ ³² (Once Amended) A digital data storage facility as defined
in claim ~~31~~ ³⁰ wherein the charge developing means develops a further charge
based on the amount of time the digital data is stored in the storage
[means] facility.

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~~32~~ ³³ (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 1 further
comprising means for translating the particular second set of data into a file
format defined by the authorized user before the allowing means downloads
the particular second set of data.

~~33~~ ³⁴ (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 1 further
comprising means for translating data received by the system into a file
format defined by the authorized user before storing the received data in the
[storing means] facility.

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~~34~~ ³⁵ (Once Amended) A data management system comprising:
a storage device for providing paid storage for digital assets of a
plurality of unrelated asset provider users, at least some of the digital assets
stored in the electronic storage facility including [storing] first sets of data
each having a first bandwidth requirement and second sets of data each
representative of an associated one of the first sets of data and having a

second bandwidth requirement less than the first bandwidth requirement, the storage device storing the digital assets of a first one of the asset provider users such that the digital assets of the first asset provider user can only be accessed by authorized users identified by the first asset provider and such that the digital assets of the first asset provider user are transparent to users that are not authorized by the first asset provider user;

a search engine for searching among sets of data stored in the storage device;

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a communication device operable to allow remote communication by a user with the system including means for sending a particular second set of data to a user in response to a user request to the search engine;

means for accepting a user-defined work order from a first location via the communication device wherein the work order identifies a second location as an intended destination of the work order, identifies [a] the particular second set of data, [in the storage device] and includes further data developed outside the system;

a router for electronically routing a job order to a second location, the job order including [; and

means for downloading] the first set of data associated with the particular second set of data identified in the work order [to the second location].

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37. (Once Amended) A digital image management and order
delivery system comprising:

a storage device for [storing digital images] providing storage for digital images of a plurality of unrelated asset provider users, the storage device storing the digital images of a first one of the asset provider users such that the digital images of the first asset provider user can only be accessed by authorized users identified by the first asset provider user and such that the digital images of the first asset provider user are transparent to users that are not authorized by the first asset provider user;

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a searching engine for developing a subset of the digital images stored in the storage device by the first asset provider user in response to inputs received from a first authorized user identified by the first asset provider user, the searching engine being adapted to download low resolution copies of the subset to the first authorized user;

a job order developer responsive to inputs received from the first authorized user for developing a job order which includes: a) at least one high resolution copy of a digital image contained in the subset and identified by the first authorized user, and b) a file containing information developed by the first authorized user outside of the system; and,

a router for electronically routing the job order developed by the job order developer to a second user specified by the first authorized user.

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38. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 35

wherein the digital images are input to the system by the first asset [an image] provider user via a communication device.

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39. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 38 further

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comprising an image handler for processing the digital images input by the [image] first asset provider user, the image handler being adapted to develop low resolution images of the digital images received from the [image] first asset provider user and to store both the digital images received from the [image] first asset provider and the low resolution images thereof in the storage device in an addressable fashion for future searching.

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48. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 47 further

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comprising first means for downloading the miniaturized depictions of the subset to the first authorized user, and, second means responsive to inputs from the first authorized user for downloading at least one low resolution copy corresponding to a selected one of the miniaturized depictions.

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51. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 37 further

comprising:

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means for receiving digital data from [a data] the first asset provider
user to be stored in the storage device; and,

means for compressing the digital data received by the receiving
means in accordance with a parameter set by the [data] first asset provider
user.

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v2 64. (Once Amended) A system as defined in claim 36 further
comprising means for developing an indication of a charge to be assessed the
[data] first asset provider user for storing the digital data in the storage
device.

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v5 67. (Once amended) A system as defined in claim 37 further
comprising means for translating the low resolution copies of the subset into
a file format defined by the first authorized user before the searching engine
downloads the low resolution copies of the subset to the first authorized
user.

58. (Once amended) A system as defined in claim 38 further
comprising means for translating the digital images received by the system
into a file format defined by the [image] first asset provider user before
storing the digital images in the storage device.

48 70. A digital image management and order delivery system
comprising:

a storage device for providing paid storage for digital assets of a plurality of unrelated asset provider users, at least some of the digital assets stored in the storage device containing digital images, the digital images including both a high resolution copy and a low resolution copy of each of the digital images;

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a charge developer which accesses charges to the plurality of unrelated asset provider users based on at least one of an amount of storage memory utilized by the digital assets of the charged asset provider user and an amount of time the digital assets of the charged asset provider user are stored in the storage device;

a processor coupled to the storage device for permitting [controlling] access to the digital images of a first asset provider user by a first predefined user identified by the first asset provider user, the processor providing a searching engine for addressing and retrieving the digital images, the processor being adapted to download low resolution copies of the digital images to [a] the first predefined user identified by the first asset provider user and to provide high resolution copies of the digital images to a second predefined user specified by the first predefined user; the processor being further adapted to automatically electronically route documents created by

the first predefined user to the second predefined user, the processor downloading high resolution copies corresponding to the low resolution copies of the digital images identified by the first predefined user to the second predefined user for inclusion in the documents.

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71. (Once Amended) A method of managing digital images comprising the steps of:

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storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of each of a first plurality of digital images provided by a first asset provider user in an electronically searchable format on a storage device;

storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of each of a second plurality of digital images provided by a second asset provider user in an electronically searchable format on the storage device;

permitting a first authorized user identified by the first asset provider user to locate and download a low resolution copy of at least one of the digital images provided by the first asset provider user, the second plurality of images being transparent to the first authorized user;

receiving an electronic file defining a document from the first authorized user, the document being designed to incorporate the at least one digital image and data developed outside of the system;

receiving instructions from the first authorized user directing that the electronic file be delivered to a second user; and,

automatically electronically routing the electronic file and a high resolution copy of the at least one digital image to the second user identified by the first authorized user.

[Please add the following new claim:

14 or. A digital image management and order delivery system comprising:

a storage device for storing digital images received from a first digital image provider and a second digital image provider;

A12 a searching engine for developing a subset of the digital images stored in the storage device in response to inputs received from a first user, the searching engine being adapted to download low resolution copies of the subset to the first user;

a job order developer responsive to inputs received from the first user for developing a job order which includes at least one high resolution copy of a digital image contained in the subset and identified by the first user; and,

a router for electronically routing the job order developed by the job order developer to a second user specified by the first user; and

a user identifier for discriminating between users communicating with the system to control user access to the digital images stored in the storage device, the user identifier limiting access to the digital images provided by the first digital image provider to at least one user identified by the first digital image provider, wherein the digital images provided by the first image provider are transparent to all users except users identified by the first digital image provider.

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cont!

92. A method of selling on-line storage space for digital assets comprising the steps of:

- providing an on-line storage facility;
- accepting a first set of digital data from a first data provider and a second set of digital data from a second data provider;
- storing the first and second sets of digital data in the on-line storage facility;
- calculating a first storage fee to be assessed the first data provider user based upon at least one of a length of time the first set of digital data has been stored in the storage facility and an amount of space occupied in the on-line storage facility by the first set of digital data;

calculating a second storage fee to be assessed the second data provider user based upon at least one of a length of time the second set of digital data has been stored in the storage facility and an amount of space occupied in the on-line storage facility by the second set of digital data; charging the first data provider the first storage fee and the second data provider the second storage fee;

limiting access to the first set of digital data to a first set of users identified by the first data provider;

limiting access to the second set of digital data to a second set of users identified by the second data provider;

maintaining transparency of the second set of digital data to users who are not in the second set of users; and

maintaining transparency of the first set of digital data to users who are not in the first set of users.

93. A method as defined in claim 92 wherein the steps of calculating the first and second storage fees and charging the first and second data providers are performed periodically.

94. A method as defined in claim 92 wherein the first data provider is a user in the first set of users and the second data provider is a user in the second set of users.

95. A method as defined in claim 92 wherein the first set of users has at least one member.

96. A method as defined in claim 92 wherein the steps of storing the first and second sets of digital data in the on-line storage facility further comprises the steps of:

developing a first low resolution copy of the first set of data; and
storing the first low resolution copy in association with the first set of data.

97. A method as defined in claim 96 further comprising the steps of;

receiving a request to download a member of the first set of data from a requesting user in the first set of users;

downloading a member of the first low resolution copy of the first set of data to the requesting user, the downloaded member corresponding to the requesting member;